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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PRS-01
A-01 /040 W
----------079665 201354Z /50
O 201233Z JAN 78 ZFF-1
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO USDEL SECRETARY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4227
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 0586

USIA FOR IEU/STEWART

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R)
SUBJECT: SECSTATE VISIT: SUGGESTED QS AND AS

REF: STATE 14692 TOSEC 10069 AND ANKARA 0432

1. THE FOLLOWING QS AND AS ARE SUGGESTED FOR REVIEW BY DEPARTMENT AND SECDEL. NUMBER 3 AND 7 INCORPORATE RESPONSE SUGGESTED TO ANKARA IN STATE 14692 AND NO 8 INCORPORATES RE-SPONSE IN ANKARA 0432.

Q.1- NOW THAT AMBASSADOR SCHAUFELE HAS BEEN NOMINATED TO GO TO WARSAW, WHEN WILL YOU ANNOUNCE THE APPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY TO ATHENS?

A.1- AS YOU KNOW THE ASSIGNMENT OF AN AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO GREECE HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER PAPALYGOURAS AND ME EARLIER. IT IS ONE OF THE SUBJECTS THAT WE WILL TAKE UP AGAIN DURING OUR DISCUSSION IN ATHENS.

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Q.2- WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY DECIDE TO EXTEND YOUR MIDDLE EAST VISIT TO INCLUDE ANKARA AND ATHENS, AND WHY DIDN'T YOU GO TO NICOSIA AS WELL?

A.2- CYPRUS IS ONLY ONE OF THE ISSUES OF COMMON CONCERN TO THE U.S., GREECE AND TURKEY. AS YOU KNOW, MY PRESENCE IN THE AREA, TO VISIT OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, PROVIDED ME

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WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACCEPT THE KIND INVITATIONS OF THE GOVERN-
MENTS OF GREECE AND TURKEY TO VISIT THEIR CAPITALS. THE PURPOSE
OF MY VISITS TO ATHENS A

RANGE OF ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE U.S. AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF
GREECE AND TURKEY. WHILE THESE ISSUES COVER THE PROBLEMS OF THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, THEY ARE BY NO MEANS RESTRICTED ONLY TO
CYPRUS.

Q.3- HAVE YOU BROUGHT AN AMERICAN PLAN FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE
CYPRUS ISSUE AND DO YOU PLAN TO HAVE THE U.S. ACT AS A MEDIATOR
BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES IN CYPRUS?

A.3- I COME WITH NO SUCH PLAN, BECAUSE THERE IS NO AMERICAN FORM-
ULA FOR THE SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. IN ADDITION THE
UNITED STATES HAS NO INTENTION OF ACTING AS A MEDIATOR IN THE
ISSUE. LET ME EMPHASIZE THAT THE UNITED STATES CONSIDERS INTER-
COMMUNAL TALKS UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE UNITED NATIONS THE FORUM IN
WHICH TO WORK FOR A CYPRUS SOLUTION. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT SECRETARY
GENERAL WALDHEIM IN HIS EFFORTS TO FIND THE BASIS FOR EARLY RE-
SUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, AND I HAVE FOLLOWED WITH INTEREST
HIS RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN ANKARA, NICOSIA, AND ATHENS. I HOPE
THAT WE WILL SHORTLY SEE REAL PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT OF THE
CYPRUS PROBLEM.

Q.4- SINCE THE NEWS OF YOUR VISIT TO ATHENS, THERE HAS BEEN
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SPECULATION THAT YOU ARE HERE TO PRESSURE THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO
ACCEPT ECEVIT'S PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS AND THE AEGEAN PROBLEMS. IS
THIS TRUE?

A.4- NO. -- THE UNITED STATES HAS NO INTENTION OF PRESSURING THE
GOVERNMENT OF GREECE. AS I HAVE STATED, THE MOST PROMISING FORUM
FOR A SETTLEMENT IS THE RECONVENING OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS UNDER
THE AEGIS OF THE UNITED NATIONS. I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE EFFORTS
OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL TO GET THESE TALKS RESUMED
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. AS FOR THE AEGEAN QUESTION, I AM ENCOURAGED
THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY ARE STRIVING TO
RESOLVE THIS ISSUE. AS YOU KNOW, BILATERAL TALKS ON THIS QUESTION
ARE SCHEDULED TO RESUME ON FEBRUARY 12.

Q.5- HAVE YOU BROUGHT AN ECEVIT PLAN FOR EITHER CYPRUS OR THE
AEGEAN TO PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS?

A.5- NO.

Q.6- WILL YOU URGE PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS TO AGREE TO AN EARLY
SUMMIT MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT?

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A.6- THAT IS A MATTER FOR THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS TO DECIDE
FOR THEMSELVES.

Q.7- ISN'T AMERICAN POLICY ON CYPRUS DESIGNED SIMPLY TO FIND AN
EXCUSE TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY?

A.7- OF COURSE NOT. WHAT WE WANT IS A LASTING, VIABLE, JUST
SOLUTION. THE ELEMENTS OF THAT SOLUTION ARE FOR THE PARTIES IN-
VOLVED TO DECIDE. WHAT WE HAVE SOUGHT TO DO IS TO ENCOURAGE THE
NEGOTIATING PROCESS BETWEEN THE TWO CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES UNDER THE
AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS. WE ARE WILLING TO BE OF ASSISTANCE
IN ANY WAY WE CAN.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ATHENS 0586

USIA FOR IEU/STEWART

Q.8- BUT ISN'T THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TRYING TO JUSTIFY LIFTING
THE ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY?

A.8- THE POSITION OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS CONSISTENTLY
BEEN THAT IS ENDORSES IN PRINCIPLE THE U.S.-TURKISH DEFENSE
COOPERATION AGREEMENT AS A VALID MEANS OF REBUILDING OUR BI-
LATERAL DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP. WE HAVE STATED AND STILL STATE THAT
AN APPROPRIATE TIME, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE CONGRESS AND
AFTER WE HAVE ASSESSED ALL THE RELEVANT FACTORS, WE SHALL ASK
THE CONGRESS TO TAKE ACTION ON THE AGREEMENT. AMONG THE FACTORS
ARE THE U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST, NATO CONSIDERATIONS AND OTHER
PERTINENT MATTERS SUCH AS, OF COURSE, THE SITUATION IN THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

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Q.9- DO YOU EXPECT TO SIGN THE GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT WHILE YOU ARE IN ATHENS?

A.9- NO. THE UNITED STATES-GREECE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT HAS, AS YOU KNOW, BEEN INITIALED BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS. I HOPE THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS WILL BE ABLE TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT SOON
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SO THAT IT CAN BE SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURES OF BOTH COUNTRIES FOR APPROVAL.

Q.10- WHEN DO YOU EXPECT THAT TO BE?

A.10- I CANNOT SAY.

Q.11- WILL YOU PRESSURE GREECE TO RETURN TO NATO?

A.11- NO. HOWEVER, WE REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT GREECE WILL RETURN TO FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE ALLIANCE AS SOON AS THAT BECOMES POSSIBLE.

Q.12- WHAT IS THE U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARDS GREEK MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY?

A.12- WE WELCOME THE PROSPECT OF GREECES BECOMING A FULL MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY. THE TIMING OF THIS IS, OF COURSE, A MATTER FOR GREECE AND THE COMMUNITY TO DECIDE.
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